EDUCATIONAL TEST: CONCEPT, TYPES & CHARACTERISTICS

Semester: IV

Introduction

- **Why do we test?**
    - To evaluate learning outcomes
    - To identify strengths & weaknesses
    - To improve teaching and learning

Concept of Educational Test

- An **educational test** is a systematic procedure for measuring a sample of an individual's behavior or knowledge.

- Helps assess learning progress and achievement.

- Can be **formative** or **summative** in nature.

Purpose of Educational Testing

- Diagnose learning difficulties
- Guide instruction
- Certify achievement
- Evaluate program effectiveness
- Predict future performance

Types of Educational Tests

- **Based on Purpose:**
  - Formative Test
  - Summative Test
  - Diagnostic Test
  - Placement Test

Types (Continued)

- **Based on Format:**
  - Objective Tests (MCQs, True/False)
  - Subjective Tests (Essays, Long answers)
- **Based on Mode:**
  - Oral Test
  - Written Test
  - Online/Computer-Based Test

Characteristics of a Good Test

- **Validity** – Measures what it is intended to measure
- **Reliability** – Consistency of test results
- **Objectivity** – Free from personal bias
- **Usability** – Easy to administer and score
- **Discriminatory Power** – Differentiates between high and low achievers

- **Validity**

- **Types:**
  - Content Validity
  - Construct Validity
  - Criterion-related Validity

- A test must be aligned with learning objectives.

- **Reliability**

- A reliable test gives **consistent results** over time.
- Types:
  - Test-Retest Reliability
  - Split-Half Reliability
  - Inter-Rater Reliability

- **Objectivity**

  - Scoring should be **free of examiner bias**
  - Standardized scoring keys improve objectivity

  - **Usability**

  - **Easy to administer, time-efficient, and practical**
    - Should not require excessive resources

  - **Discriminatory Power**

- Ability to distinguish between students with different levels of understanding
  - Avoids too easy or too difficult items